

Illustrator Essential Shortcuts www.illustratoring.com

Black Arrow = V

White Arrow = A

Rectangle = M

Ellipse = L

Shape Builder (CS5+) = shift M

Pen Tool = P

Scissors = C

Tool Toggle = command/control

Outline/Preview Mode = command/control Y

Smart Guides = command/control U

Arrow Keys = move selection by one
Keyboard Increment (set in Prefs)

Preferences = command/control K

Rulers = command/control R

Scale = S

Rotate = R

Reflect = O

Free Transform = E

Transform Again = command/control D

Eyedropper = I

Magic Wand = Y

Paste in Front = command/control F

Send to Back/Front

command/control, shift, [or]

Send Backward/Forward

command/control [or]

Zoom in/out = command/control + or -

Zoom Tool (in) = command/control spacebar

Zoom Tool (out) = add option/alt

Hand Tool = spacebar

Fit Artboard in Window = command/control O

Group = command/control G

Ungroup = command/control + shift G

Swap Fill & Stroke Colors = shift X

Toggle Active Fill or Stroke = X

Make Active Fill/Stroke None = /

Default Fill/Stroke = D

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Modifier Keys (combine with tools & keys)

shift = Constrains (proportions, angles, etc.),
& selects multiple paths. Change numbers in
increments of 10.

option/alt = Draw from center. Drag a copy.
+Shape Builder to subtract. +Zoom Tool to
zoom out. +Rotate Tool, click to position
point w/dialog. +Pen Tool for corner anchor.
Layers Panel toggle lock & visibility icons.

control click / right-click in window for
contextual menu, on ruler to change units.

spacebar = reposition shape while drawing

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Freehand Drawing

Brush = B

Blob Brush = shift B

Eraser = shift E

Pencil = N

Smooth Tool = hold option/alt with
Pencil or Brushes